

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-8 are pending and stand rejected in the application. This communication amends claims 1-5 and adds claims 9-11.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,420,835 to Chen et al. (Chen).

In response, independent claims 1 and 5 have each been amended to distinguish over Chen. Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the closed plasma discharge space peripherally enclosed by a closed-rib structure of the display cell” and “the fluorescent layer thickness in at least one of the closed plasma discharge spaces is different from the fluorescent layer thickness in another one of the closed plasma discharge spaces.” Claim 5 has been amended to recite “a closed barrier rib structure peripherally enclosing the closed plasma discharge space.” Support for these amendments can be found on page 4, paragraph [0014] of the specification:

Figure 4 illustrates closed-rib display cells 110 of a PDP according to an embodiment of the present invention. The structure illustrated in Figure 4 is also a sectional view of an array of display cells similar to the sectional view of a prior art structure shown in Figure 3. The closed-rib structures are formed by the barrier ribs 15. Within each of the display cells 110, a closed plasma discharge space 112 is formed by the rear plate 21, the barrier ribs 15, and the front plate 22 (shown in Figure 1).

Chen does not expressly or inherently describe the subject matter currently recited in the claims, as the plasma discharge spaces in Chen are not peripherally enclosed by a closed rib structure, as currently claimed. As shown in the drawings of Chen, the

discharge spaces are defined by stripe-like barrier rib structure (e.g., elements 96 in FIG.3). Consequently, Chen does not anticipate claims 1-8, as currently amended.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 2-4 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments made to claim 1, from which they depend.

4. New claim 9 requires that the display cells in claim 1 further comprise a hexagonally shaped structure.

New claim 10 is drawn to a plasma display panel that requires each of the closed display cells to be enclosed entirely along its periphery by one or more ribs of a closed rib structure, thereby defining a closed discharge space. The prior art cited of record I the present application does not disclose, teach or suggest such a plasma display panel.

New claim 11 requires that the display cells in claim 10 to further comprise a hexagonally shaped structure.

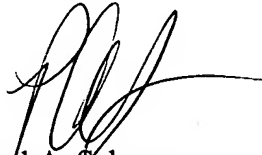
5. The amendments made to the specification correct minor grammatical errors. No new matter is believed entered by these amendments.

6. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that

claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul A. Schwarz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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